



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Billing Code 8320-01

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW]

Proposed Information Collection: (Back (Thoracolumbar Spine) Conditions

Disability Benefits Questionnaire) Activity: Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to adjudicate the claim for VA disability benefits related to a claimant's diagnosis of a back condition.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before [Insert date 60 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of

Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail [nancy.kessinger@va.gov](mailto:nancy.kessinger@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW (Collection (Back (Thoracolumbar Spine) Conditions Disability Benefits Questionnaire)" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 632-8924 or Fax (202) 632-8925.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501 - 3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Title: (Back (Thoracolumbar Spine) Conditions Disability Benefits

Questionnaire, VA Form 21-0960M-14.

OMB Control Number: 2900-NEW (Back (Thoracolumbar Spine) Conditions Disability Benefits Questionnaire).

Type of Review: New data collection.

Abstract: The VA Form 21-0960M-14, *Back (Thoracolumbar Spine) Conditions Disability Benefits Questionnaire*, will be used for disability compensation or pension claims which require an examination and/or receiving private medical evidence that may potentially be sufficient for rating purposes. The form will be used to gather necessary information from a claimant's treating physician regarding the results of medical examinations and related to the claimant's diagnosis of a Thoracolumbar spine condition. VA will gather medical information related to the claimant that is necessary to adjudicate the claim for VA disability benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 37,500.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 45 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50,000.

DATED: June 11, 2013

By direction of the Secretary:

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Crystal Rennie, VA Clearance Officer,  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

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